

# **American Heroes Motorcycle Association Bylaws**

*(Owned by AHMA)*

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## American Heroes Motorcycle Association Bylaws Military Service and First Responders

### Section 1 - Our Information

Formal name - American Heroes Motorcycle Association.

aka - *American Heroes MA; AHMA*

The National Board and Founding Chapter located in Waynesboro, PA  
Membership system runs on a FY system, beginning July 1, ending June 30 for membership tracking reasons.

IRS Declaration. American Heroes Motorcycle Association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and/or educational/organization, outlined in Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. The National Board of Directors (NBOD) has the authority to change the AHMA bylaws if any part is found to be in conflict with Federal or PA state laws. Fiscal calendar is straight calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

### Section 2 - Objective and Purpose

American Heroes Motorcycle Association was formed:

To promote interest and provide support of various forms of motorcycle activity associated with other motorcycle associations, clubs and organizations sharing a similar mission.

To raise awareness & have action plans, "DO" and be a point of resource for RET/PTSD and traumatic brain injury,(TBI) for our members. There is a lot of focus on 'awareness' well, we want to 'do', there is plenty of awareness of veteran suicide and first responder suicide, we feel it is time to act.

To work in conjunction with other groups, organizations, and governing agencies.

### Section 3 - Our Logo & Patch

We embody Combat Veterans, Fire, EMS, Police, God and the American Flag. Our Logo/Patch is copyright protected and may not be copied/duplicated or used without express permissions of the founders or president of AHMA. **YOUR PATCH WAS EARNED BY YOUR SERVICE!**

Each member will sign a patch agreement. Upon termination, voluntary or involuntary will return the patch, non-returned patches will be considered stolen property and subject to legal ramifications.

## The Armor of God - Represents Christian Faith

Ephesians 6:10-17; Apostle Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full Armor of God, so you can take the full stand against the devil's schemes.

Shield - Faith; Helmet - Salvation; Sword - Word of God [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

## Maltese Cross - Firefighter Representation

The Maltese cross is known around the world as a symbol of the fire service, the Badge of a Fire Fighter. The Maltese Cross is a symbol of protection and a badge of honor. Its story is hundreds of years old, back to Knights of St. John, who fought the Saracens for possession of the holy land. Hundreds of the knights were burned alive; others risked their lives to save their brothers-in-arms from dying painful, fiery deaths. It was these men who became our first Fire Fighters and the first of a long list of courageous Fire Fighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders who awarded each hero a badge of honor—a cross similar to the one fire fighters wear today. Since the Knights of St. John lived for close to four centuries on a little island in the Mediterranean Sea named Malta, the cross came to be known as the Maltese Cross. It means that the Fire Fighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down his life for you just as the crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago. The Maltese Cross is a Fire Fighter's badge of honor, signifying that he works in courage...a ladder rung away from death. [www.fireengineering.com](http://www.fireengineering.com)

## Blue Shield - Police Representation

Perhaps the most visible and recognizable symbol of policing around the world, the police badge is seen by many as a sign of authority, sacrifice, and service. The "badge," brings to mind a metal shield, star or similar emblem worn by officers, but to the police officer, the badge represents the public trust, with which s\he has the authority to act and to which s\he has the duty to remain true, maintain law and order. Officers wear their badge to identify who they are. The law enforcement badge is an easily recognizable sign of legal authority. Police officers proudly wear their badges to show their allegiance to the communities they serve and pride they have in their chosen profession. Police officers see first hand the good and bad, fallen brothers and sisters, often the first responders and lay their life on the line, serve and protect day in and day out for all of us.

[www.thebalance.com](http://www.thebalance.com)

## Star of Life - EMS Representation

The star of life, "A SHINING SYMBOL" a blue, six-pointed star with a medical snake entwined staff, known as the Rod of Asclepius, symbolizes EMS practitioners. In 1973, Leo R. Schwartz, Chief of the EMS Branch, designed the star of life. The Star of Life stands for the six main tasks executed by emergency medical services rescuers all through the emergency chain: **Detection** - The first rescuers on the scene. **Reporting** - The call for professional help. **Response** - The first rescuers provide first aid and immediate care to the extent of their capabilities. **On-scene care** - EMS practitioners arrive and provide immediate care to the extent of their

capabilities on-scene. **Care in transit** -The EMS practitioners proceed to transfer the patient to a hospital via ambulance or helicopter for specialized care, and provide medical care during transportation. **6 Transfer to definitive care** - Appropriate specialized care is provided at the hospital. We wear this emblem to show we are ready, willing and able to assist in any capacity. We have witnessed miracles and sadness, new life and end of life with every situation in between. [www.emsworld.com](http://www.emsworld.com)

#### **Battlefield Cross - Military Representation**

The "battlefield cross" during the Civil War, signified a dead soldier to be gathered and buried during a truce called for that purpose. The configuration of the rifle pointed downward with a helmet perched on the stock was a more common sight during World War I and World War II. Having some sort of focus for mourning is useful for the dead soldier's comrades." Beginning with the Gulf War in 1991, and during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the latest version of the battlefield cross: rifle, helmet, boots, and dog tags, has become the symbol of loss, of mourning and closure for the living." **The rifle facing downward means the soldier was killed in action; a rifle with a bayonet stuck in the ground tells us the soldier went down fighting. The boots or the presence of the dog tags signifies the soldier has marched the final march to battle, and he will never be forgotten.** Combat Veterans Embodiment the memory of the fallen and the fight for all those still enduring their own battles, long after they are off the battlefield. [www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com)

Patch fee (paid one time, per patch purchased, 2 patch limit for each membership type) \$ Fee based on membership type \$20-\$45

Members who are non-motorcycle owners will have 2 years to obtain and show proof of ownership and insurance of a motorcycle 500cc or greater Unless spouse of member owns a motorcycle.

Until proof of ownership member will not receive a patch.

No rockers, no cubes, no diamond shape patches

#### **Section 4 - Membership**

The term "good standing" shall be defined as any member who has fulfilled and maintains the requirements for membership in the American Heroes Motorcycle Association, who is not currently under disciplinary review or probationary status, who has paid the necessary dues and conformed to the requirements as set forth in these bylaws. Membership will be reviewed on case by case basis and is at the discretion of the BOD.

#### **Full Patch Member:**

Service man or woman in military (all branches, active, veteran, combat, non-combat); fire/EMS/police (active/retired or

former); Of good character and in good standing; owning a 500cc or greater motorcycle within 2 years of membership, valid operator license showing ownership and insurance proof. 18 years old or over. Has full rights.

Verification - A copy of DD 214 or Official Military Personnel File; Transcript with dates or Letter from your department/employer or proof of retirement from such.

#### Auxiliary Patch Member

Must be of good character; must be a spouse, widow / widower or adult child of a full patch member, has full rights, cannot sponsor another member, can hold certain BOD positions.

Verification - Marriage license, birth or adoption certificate.

#### Junior Patch Member

Must be the child/minor under 18 years of age of a full patch member; in good standing; must turn in Junior patch at the age of 18 may transfer to Full or Auxiliary Patch based on criteria.

#### Support Patch Member

Gold Star Family or Civilian supporter of American Heroes Motorcycle Association owning a 500cc or greater motorcycle within 2 years of membership, valid operator license showing ownership & insurance proof. Cannot vote on any business. Cannot sponsor another member. Cannot hold a position. (At will membership)

Verification - Will be subject to Various checks including Child Abuse Background. Spouses must show marriage license, child must have birth or adoption certificate.

*(Verification items, insurance, proof of ownership will be verified, but not retained by AHMA)*

### Section 5 - Membership Requirements and Dues

Dues are paid at time of application prorated based on month joined, then due by June 30 for the following year (July 1-June 30)

Full patch members dues are \$35.00 annually, due no later than June 30 for the upcoming year. FP Members have full rights and privileges of the organization and must attend 4 events in a year either meetings, events or a combination to retain membership.

Auxiliary patch members dues are \$30 annually, due no later than June 30 for the upcoming year. AP Members have full rights except cannot hold certain board positions. AP Members must attend 2 events in a year either meetings, events or a combination to retain membership.

Junior patch members pay no dues. JP Members have event participation rights, cannot vote nor hold a board position. Upon 18th birthday, JP members will pay dues based on membership upgrade type.

Support patch members dues are \$30 annually, due no later than June 30 for the upcoming year. SP Members must attend 2 events in a year either meetings, events or a combination to retain membership.

Active Deployment Status - your dues will be waived during deployment, you will maintain membership.

Benevolent fund - the benevolent fund for member dues will not exceed \$70.00. Any member wishing to apply for dues to come from benevolent fund will submit request in writing to the appropriate board for review, outlining why and be prepared to provide financial documentation.

Due to children being actively involved, each member will be run through the local and national sex offender registry database on an annual basis.

*Members who are non-motorcycle owners will have 2 years to obtain and show proof of ownership and insurance of a motorcycle 500cc or greater Unless spouse of full patch member who owns a motorcycle. Until proof of ownership member will not receive a patch.*

*\*We are not a club, we are an association. We do not wear rockers, colors, claim territory, prospect, accept hang-arounds, we do not openly recruit or partake in any questionable behaviors.\**

#### Section 6 - Meetings

We understand commitments that may inhibit personal attendance at meetings from work, family, distance, etc.. In an effort to be all inclusive, we will offer web/skype meetings which will count towards your membership requirements. While this should not be your 'regular' form of meeting attendance, it will be offered as an option when personal attendance is not possible.

#### Section 7 - Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent fund will not exceed \$1500 at any given time, nor will any amount exceeding \$1500 be disbursed to one single recipient in a single year. Requests for funds will be submitted in writing to appropriate board with financial support documentation.

#### Section 8 - Disciplinary

Right of an Assembly to Eject any one from its Place of Meeting in the event a member acts in an unbecoming manner, including but not limited to disruptive outbursts and profanity.

The Right of a Deliberative Assembly to Punish its Members, the Board reserves the right to place members on probation or expel from AHMA depending on charges.

All members must conduct themselves in a manner that is not an embarrassment to themselves ANY DISHONORABLE CONDUCT in or out of patch will result in immediate termination by any or all Board member(s), no vote necessary by the Board or membership.

*\*All terminated members WILL return the patch or could face criminal penalties.\**

### Section 9 - BOD and Elections

We will follow Roberts Rules of Order - NO exceptions!

All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in the association with a minimum of one (1) full year of good standing membership

All elected and or appointed officers and Board of Directors must remain active members in good standing

Should any officer resign or be removed for any reason the Board of Directors will call a special meeting and nominations for the newly vacant position(s) will be taken at such time.

### Section 10 - Duties of each BOD position (FP Members only)

**President (Commander)** - *Founding chapter president will stand until resignation (Male FP)*

One of the most important members of any organization is the president. The president's duty is to preside over all meetings and events, including some for the general public. For the latter, the president will ensure all events run smoothly so the organization maintains a good image. The president may also be in charge of overseeing all other member activities and is the one to whom all the other officers must report. Calls meeting to order, announce formal votes and adjournment. The president makes final decisions on membership applications and disciplinary actions.

**XO/VP** (formerly Parliamentarian) (Male FP) -

Should take the chair, and in Presidents absence the next in order to act as President or may act as Secretary.

Advisor/Consultant who advises the presiding officers and members on matters of procedure during conventions and board meetings.

**Gatekeeper/SAA** (Male FP)

Should take the seat of the XO. The Gatekeeper is in charge of disciplinary actions. The Gatekeeper should not only be familiar with parliamentary usage, and set the example of strict

conformity thereto, but he should be a person of executive ability, capable of controlling membership. He should set an example of courtesy, and should never forget that to control others it is necessary to control one's self. Enforces rules and policy.

**Secretary (FP, SP, Aux) -**

An organization's secretary is in charge of keeping the membership rolls. In addition, the secretary may plan or distribute scheduling information for meetings and other activities, as well as accept payment of dues from members and forward them to the treasurer. One important secretarial duty is taking minutes at board meetings, covering the discussion of each agenda item. Then it is a matter of transcribing and filing the notes, making them available as necessary. May need to take seat as Treasurer.

**Treasurer (FP, SP, Aux) -**

The treasurer is in charge of all financial aspects, accepting payments from members directly or through the secretary. The treasurer also prepares and provides financial statements to the organization and tracks all deposits, expenses and other financial dealings. The treasurer is often in charge of administrating the cash when the organization holds a special event for the public. The treasurer often handles or oversees tax filings and maintains the organization's non-profit status. May take seat as Secretary.

**Appointed positions (FP, SP & Aux Membership Eligible)**

**Road Captain(s)**

Road captain coordinates a multiple-bike ride. Road captain refers to both the leader and the sweepers who check that other riders are safe. Working as part of a team, is responsible for the safety of the riders and the smooth running of the ride itself. Duties include planning, thinking ahead, communication working with various entities for road closures.

**Chaplain (Christian based)**

Lead the group in prayer before all organized rides and events.  
Notify leadership and members of incidents in the area.  
Keep abreast of and monitor social media for funeral processions in our area relating to military/fire/EMS/police, etc.. to be passed on to the general membership for attendance if requested.

**Social Media Officer (Public Relations)**

Keep abreast of Social Media information pertaining to AHMA, other organizations, events, fundraisers, etc.. Post on Facebook, Linked In, Twitter all public information, update the AHMA website with information, events, etc... all in a timely manner.



### Section 11 - Reporting Structure

National Board/Founders

National President, Gatekeeper, Secretary

Regional / Local Chapter as Applicable

President, Gatekeeper, Secretary

We believe in following chain of command, local, regional then national.

### Section 12 - Formation of Local/Regional Chapter

Requests for local chapters are to be submitted in writing via application

No local chapter will be approved within 1 hour or 60 mile riding radius

Person(s) requesting local/regional chapter will be in good standing, a member of current chapter for no less than 180 days and have participated in at least 2 events.

Local/Regional chapters will follow all National By-Laws and Roberts Rules of Order, no exceptions.

### Section 13 - By-Law Changes

All changes proposed for the By-Laws will be submitted in writing to the National Board for review and vote where applicable. The requestor will be notified within 30 days if accepted or rejected.

### Section 14 - General Rules

We understand those seeking membership may be a part of another entity, AHMA does not recognize nor permit dual patching with any other Association, MC or similar Organization. Beginning November 11, 2019, American Heroes Motorcycle Association recognizes those already members whom dual patch, and are hereby grandfathered in with dual patching. Effective November 11, 2019, any applicant wishing to become a member will not be permitted to hold membership with any other Association, MC or similar Organization. We do not wear 'colors' or rockers We will treat each other with dignity and respect-No Exceptions

### Section 15 - Beliefs and Order - God and Country

We believe in God, all gatherings will begin with prayer

We believe in the Red, White and Blue - our colors run deep

We believe in fellowship, helping each other and supporting each other

We believe in family - we are 100% family oriented

We follow Roberts Rules of Order (No exceptions)

We will be structured with a governing Board (after first 2 years, officers will be elected by membership)

We support other MC, Associations and clubs who have the similar mission as ours

Section 16 - Appeals/Grievances

In the event of negative, disciplinary action or other adverse actions are taken against a member, and personally appear before the board member has the right to appeal/grieve such decision in writing to the National Board. In the event the National Board stands with said decision, it is final.

All decisions made by the National Board are final.

Section 17 - CONTACT

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[www.americanheroesma.com](http://www.americanheroesma.com)

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